

More PT drill sergeant!



Photo by Carrie David Ford

Sgt. Jeramy Loder, Company C, 1st Battalion, 61st Infantry Regiment drill sergeant, coaches second-day Basic Combat Training Soldiers performing the prone-row exercise Friday morning. From left are: Pvt. Joseph Demers, Pfc. Alexandria Gomez and Pfc. Omiesha Jackson.

Garrison welcomes new CSM

Chris Rasmussen
Leader Staff

A former Fort Jackson drill sergeant is returning to the installation to take the helm as garrison command sergeant major.

Command Sgt. Maj. Lewis J. Kellam assumed his duties Tuesday, replacing Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Friday, who is retiring after 30 years of service to the Army.

The official Change of Responsibility and Retirement Ceremony is slated for 3 p.m., Feb. 2 at the MG Robert B. Solomon Center.

"I am very happy to be back here at Fort Jackson," said Kellam, who served at Fort Jackson between 1991 and 1994 first as a drill sergeant with Company D, 4th Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment and then as an instructor at the Drill Sergeant School. "My goal is to continue to provide excellent customer service to our Soldiers, civilians and family members.

"My biggest goal, however, is to make this installation an Army Community of Excellence awardee," he said.

Kellam, who entered the Army in 1983, attended Basic Combat Training at Fort Dix, N.J., and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Jackson, as a personnel records specialist.

"Command Sergeant Major Kellam comes to us with a wealth of operational and installation management experience," said Col. Eddie Stephens, garrison commander. "His most recent assignment was garrison CSM at Hunter Army Airfield, Ga., a role he held the past two years."

He has held positions ranging from squad leader to first sergeant. Other past assignments include Service Company, 10th Special Forces Group, Fort Devens, Mass.; 24th Adjutant General Company, Fort Stewart, Ga.; two tours of duty with the 82nd Adjutant General Company, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.; 2nd Adjutant General Company, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Casey, Korea; HHC, 130th Engineer Brigade, Hanau, Germany; A Detachment, 38th Personnel Services Battalion, United States Personnel Command; 509th Personnel Service Battalion, Camp Casey; HHC, 18th

See **CSM** Page 4



CSM Kellam

Fort Jackson Tax Center opens Monday

Chris Rasmussen
Leader Staff

It's that time of year again! Tax season can be a frustrating and difficult time for Soldiers who are already busy with their daily duties.

Free help is available, however, thanks to the Fort Jackson Tax Center, which will open its doors for service Monday. All service members, family members and retirees are eligible for the program.

"The Fort Jackson Tax Center has made two big changes for those who have utilized the program in the past," said Capt. Chris Roten, legal assistance attorney and Tax Center officer in charge. First, the center is now located in building R2101 on the corner of Marion Avenue and Supply Road.

The center is also implementing a "1040EZ Drop Off" for qualified individu-

als. This allows eligible members to drop off tax forms, have qualified Soldier tax preparers do all the work and file it electronically.

"If you are single with no dependents and are taking the standard deduction you may be eligible for this program," Roten said. "Also, married couples who have no dependents, are filing jointly and plan on taking the standard deduction might qualify."

All Soldiers preparing taxes are certified Volunteer Income Tax Preparers. In 2005, the Soldiers at the tax center prepared more than 1,700 tax returns and saved the Fort Jackson community approximately \$175,000 in tax preparation fees, Roten said.

"The Fort Jackson Tax Center is staffed by Fort Jackson permanent party Soldiers

from various units who have volunteered their time and energy to assist in preparing taxes," Roten said. "These Soldiers have all attended a course on tax preparation and unique military issues held by the Internal Revenue Service."

This year, the tax center will also prepare state income tax returns for those states that allow volunteer income tax preparers to provide assistance in filing their forms. If the Tax Center is unable to prepare your state return, they will provide all the tax forms needed for that state.

Qualifying persons entitled to tax assistance will be required to make an appointment and bring all appropriate documentation to their appointment. Documentation needed includes a valid Social Security card for all family members, federal wages

See **Tax Center** Page 3

Index

Op-Ed	2	ASAP	19
News	3-6	Legal	21
Feature	8	Cops	22
MWR	10	Chapel	24
Health	11	Sports	25
Community	14-15		

Leading the way ...



All About MOUT

BCT Soldiers train for real-world situations.

Page 16



Soldiers Help Local Schools

Adopt-A-School program brings Soldiers and students together.

Page 8